

CITY NEWS

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Photo - Angela Zetter

City of Trinidad Turns 150!

The City of Trinidad, one of the smallest incorporated cities in California, is turning 150! The City was incorporated on November 07, 1870, and is now a Gateway to the California Coastal National Monument. However, while the City itself has been incorporated for 150 years, Trinidad's history long pre-dates 1870. The City strives to honor and work to protect its Native American cultural and historic heritage. The City is also proud to be joined by three additional marine landmarks — the historic Trinidad Head Light, the Trinidad Memorial Lighthouse, and the Humboldt State University Fred Telonicher Marine Laboratory. It is no surprise that people from all over the world flock to Trinidad.

A potential measure to look for on the ballot.

In March 2020 the City Council will be asked to vote on a resolution to continue the \$.75 sales tax. If passed, the sales tax will be on the November 2020 ballot.

Background: The sales tax was first adopted in 2004, as a 1% increase in the local sales tax. After its expiration the City Council then adopted a 3/4% local sales tax. After the decrease, it has since been renewed each election year by a majority vote.

What is it? The sales tax is imposed on (1) sales of most retail goods that occur within the boundaries of the City, or (2) certain items purchased outside of the boundaries.

How does this benefit you? The revenue generated funds essential government services. These services include, but are not limited to, police and fire protection, street and public facilities, trail maintenance and protection, and services provided by the Town Office. The sales tax generates approximately \$100,000 per year to the City of Trinidad's General Fund.

Want to get involved in City government?

Visit the City Clerk's office for more information. Keep an eye out for postings regarding vacancies posted at Town Hall, Murphy's Market, and the U.S. Post Office.

Sign up to join the City Newsletter email group to keep up to date on meetings times.

2020 Election

This year the City will be holding its local election, alongside the federal and state elections. This election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The City's polling place will be at the location noted on your sample ballot.

This year the City must vote on Council member seats. Those up for re-election are as follows:

Mayor Steve Ladwig

Council member Jack West

Council member Dave Grover - *Council member Dave Grover was appointed by the City Council in 2019, so he will also be on the ballot.*

Are you registered to vote?

For the election held on November 6, 2018, the total number of votes cast in Trinidad was 225 of 280 registered voters, resulting in an 80.36% turn-out.

Let's beat that this year in 2020! Every vote counts!

How to register

You can register online at: <https://registertovote.ca.gov//>

Once you click on the link, it will direct you to complete the voter registration application, and submit the form electronically. Your application will automatically be forwarded to the Humboldt County Office of Elections for processing. You will receive confirmation of registration by mail.

Voter registration application and Federal Post Card Application forms are available at the Office of Elections, located at 2426 6th Street, in Eureka, CA. Requests to have a voter registration application form mailed can be made to the following: Humboldt County Office of Elections 707-445-7481 & Secretary of State 1-800-345-VOTE.

City Meeting Dates:

City Council: 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Special meetings TBA

Planning Commission: 3rd Wednesday every month at 6:00 pm. Special meetings TBA

Trails Committee: Quarterly meetings begin January 21st at 5:00 pm. Additional dates TBA

STR Committee: January 9th, April 21st, and September 15th at 5:30 pm. Additional meetings TBA

A Letter From Your Mayor

Dear Trinidad,

It is a great honor to be part of City Government, and my 3 years on the Council and as 2 as mayor have given me a chance to meet many residents of Trinidad and the surrounding area. We are a City with many ideas and perspectives and this is what makes Trinidad. 2019 has been an eventful year where we are working on some great initiatives. Some of the many highlights are giving solid attention to developing a General Plan that will guide us effectively and responsibly into the next 40 years. We have lots of changes to adapt to and a real opportunity to help move the City into a position where we can meet our diverse needs. We are also working on several initiatives that are bringing many groups of people together to find solutions on how to effectively manage our water, ensure our bay remains clean from runoff, manage our limited budget in a way that benefits the largest number of people, both residents and visitors, and balance the need to preserve a way of life that we are all an active part of.

We can accomplish a lot as a City, but we can accomplish a lot more if we have thoughtful involvement from as many residents of Trinidad, Big Lagoon, Westhaven, and surrounding areas. We are very fortunate to have strong relationships with the Trinidad Rancheria and Yurok Tribe who offer support and wisdom at every turn. We have more to do in 2020 and I would like to encourage even greater involvement from all who wish to participate.



Photo provided by - Steve Ladwig



Living in Trinidad is a special experience and I am grateful to be a part of this community. I look forward to seeing you at the post office, on the trails, or on the bay.

Steve Ladwig
Mayor

Also, please join the Mayor for "*Mondays with the Mayor*"

Mayor Ladwig hopes you will join him for a cup of coffee at the Beachcomber on Mondays from 7:30 to 9:00 am. This informal time is a chance to spend time at a local business, enjoy a cup of coffee, and get to know one another. Please note that there is no agenda, and the schedule is subject to change if he is out of town. Additionally, if the discussion leads to topics that are agendaized for the next Council meeting (ex parte communication), he will disclose the discussion at the following meeting. So again, please join Mayor Ladwig for a cup of coffee on Mondays from 7:30 to 9:00 am at Beachcomber. You can also follow Mayor Ladwig on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Mondays-with-the-Mayor-110615473753811/?modal=admin_todo_tour.

If you can't make it to *Mondays with the Mayor*, please join us at the City Council meetings located at Town Hall at 409 Trinity Street. Each meeting begins at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Additionally, see page two for additional meeting dates for the Planning Commission, STR Advisory Committee, and Trails Committee. The City of Trinidad always welcomes public participation.

Also, there are often opportunities to volunteer with the City, so make sure to keep an eye out for postings located at Town Hall, Murphy's Market, and the U.S. Post Office.

More Questions? Please contact the City Clerk at cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov or 707.677.0223 or the City Manager at 707.677.3876.

Tips for Getting Through the Construction

From your Public Works Department

The City of Trinidad's Public Works Department have some helpful tips for residents to get through the construction occurring during 2020.

- *Remember it is only temporary.*

We understand that no-one likes their daily routines to be interrupted, but remember what you are experiencing is only a short-term challenge.

- *Plan ahead.*

Make sure to mark your calendars for upcoming meetings and informational sessions. This way you can ensure you are getting the most update to date information.

- *Communicate.*

The City understands this impacts residents, so please get to know your public officials and City staff. They will be your best resource to answer your questions and hear your concerns. Questions are always welcomed.

Construction Timeline for 2020

Storm Water Management Improvement Project

(see pages 4-5 for more information)

- February - Solicitation of Bids for construction
- May - Award Construction Contract
- June - Construction begins. Work will occur on *Underwood, Edwards, Ewing, Van Wycke, and in the beach parking lot.*
- Construction is scheduled for completion in September/October.

The Roadway Rehabilitation Project

- Expected to begin in spring of 2020.
- Includes pavement repair on streets: *Parker, Hector, Galindo, and Edwards*

What's Going On in Your Neighborhood This Year?

Storm Water Management Improvement Project

The City is moving forward in 2020 with the final phase of the Storm Water Management Improvement Project. The project has received grants of \$4.8 million from Proposition 84 and \$537,000 from the US Department of

Agriculture. The project will construct green infrastructure improvements to the City's stormwater sewer system on Hector, Edwards, Ewing streets and at the beach parking lot. The City has been working towards eliminating the discharge from the storm water system into the Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) by making stormwater system improvements that treat and infiltrate stormwater rather than piping it to the the Trinidad Bay.



*Citywide LID Project (2018)
Volunteer Planting Day – Photo -
Angela Zetter*



Citywide LID Project (2018) Completed raingarden – Photo- Rebecca Price-Hall

The Phase 1 Stormwater Project completed improvements on Ocean, West, and Trinity streets in 2015. Phase 1 was funded by a Proposition 84 grant of \$2.5 million. (cont. on page 5)

Trinidad Raingarden Project

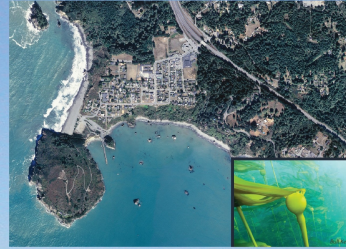
On your left is an ocean-friendly raingarden landscaped with native plants. The design is an example of Low Impact Development (LID) which acts like a natural watershed in slowing, filtering and absorbing water from storm events.

When rain falls on roadways, the *stormwater runoff* can become polluted with bacteria, sediment, chemicals and trash that are harmful to humans and marine life. Another type of LID is low-lying grassy parking bioswales which can be seen along East, Ocean and West Streets.



Raingardens and bioswales are a solution to water pollution by:

- Improving water quality
- Promoting healthier bays, oceans and beaches
- Reducing flooding
- Providing native wildlife habitat in our community



The Trinidad Bay is an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) designated in 1974 to protect the bull kelp forest ecosystem, which is considered a basic building block for a sustainable, resilient coastal environment and economy.



Trinidad Citywide Low Impact Development Planning and Construction Project
Another Project to Safeguard California's Water
Funded by the Voter-approved Proposition 1 through the California Natural Resources Agency
Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor; John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources

This project helps reduce harmful impacts that are known to negatively affect Marine Managed Areas which are designated to protect, conserve or otherwise manage resources and their uses.



(cont. from page 4) The Citywide LID Project constructed bioswales on East Street and a raingarden at Hector and Parker Street in 2018 (see photos). The Citywide LID Project was funded by a Proposition 1 Grant of \$790,000 from the Ocean Protection Council. The goal of these storm water management projects is to improve ocean and beach water quality, promote a healthier marine ecosystem, protect coastal and marine resources, and enhance public use areas.

You can view this sign next to the raingarden at Hector and Parker Street

City of Trinidad Continues to Make Strides Toward Energy Independence and Climate Resilience

The City of Trinidad's City Council voted in favor of Resolution 2018-10: A Resolution of the City of Trinidad Indicating the City's Interest in Working with the RCEA Pilot Solar Program on November 14, 2018, and nearly a year later they continued to show its support in creating a more environmentally friendly Trinidad by adopting a Resolution for Energy Independence and Climate Resilience on November 12, 2019. Back in 2018, Resolution 2018-10 resolved that the City is willing to seek funding to implement viable energy-saving or renewable energy generation measure(s), therefore requested technical and project assistance to identify such measures as may be economically feasible. Presently, the City has also committed to work towards

energy independence and climate resilience. Additionally, when approving the Resolution, the Council also approved the creation of an ad-hoc Energy and Resilience Committee. The ad-hoc Committee is composed of Council members Dwight Miller and Dave Grover.

There is no doubt that the Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) experienced in 2019 are still fresh in our minds, so the City is well aware of the challenges both the City and residents experienced during the outages. With this in mind, the City has set in motion the research to see what it would take to move away from Trinidad's dependence on PG&E. (cont. on page 6)

What are the Committee's Goals?

The goals are to study and recommend policy proposals for:

1. Ensuring greater resilience and independence with regard to electricity and internet access.
2. Lowering the City's carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as CO₂, methane, and others.
3. Building the City's preparedness for emergencies that threaten food and water supplies, and the ability of residents to communicate with phone, internet, or radio and TV.

(cont. from page 5) The resolution sought to raise awareness regarding our dependence on electricity, as it is often a resource we take for granted until it's gone. The resolution reminds us that we depend on electricity for almost all of our services, such as refrigeration, communication via phone and internet, and for powering the City's water purification and pumps. Additionally, the resolution hits key points regarding greenhouse gas emissions, advising that climate warming has consequences for the residents of Trinidad, as higher temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns throughout much of Northern California have resulted in more frequent wildfires. These wildfires have and will continue to threaten our electricity supply, as a recent change in PG&E's policies have resulted in wide-spread outages with no end in sight during dry months of the year.

During the outages, generator purchases skyrocketed, many traveling to Oregon to purchase one. Now while many have gasoline or propane generators for electrical outages, the resolution reminds us that there is irony, and bad policy, in using fossil-fueled devices which contribute to global warming.

The Committee seeks to gain input from multiple sources, which include HSU's Schatz Energy Lab, Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA), internet research, exploration of "best-practices" by other cities in the USA and elsewhere, and the residents of Trinidad.

The Council, working with the City Planner and Planning Commission, will codify policies that ensure movement toward the goals of achieving local and green energy. Those policies should ensure our independence from long-distance inputs of electricity or telecommunications, as well as minimize our greenhouse gas emissions.

Did you know?

You can reduce your greenhouse gas emissions by doing the following:

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Turn down the thermostat
- Replace your incandescent lightbulbs with compact florescent light (CFL bulbs)
- Buy energy-efficient products
- Use less hot water
- Turn off the lights when they are not in use
- Encourage others to conserve

The City of Trinidad Makes a Request for Grant Funding to Better Prepare Trinidad During Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

The City of Trinidad has applied for grant funding for back-up power and to set up a PSPS community center.

The City has requested funding from the California Office of Emergency Services to plan and equip a community resource center for power outages and Public Safety Power Shutoffs in Trinidad. The Town Hall community resource center would be available to the public during electric disruptions for warming, device charging, and water supply. Funding was also requested to install a battery backup system for the solar PV array to be installed at City Hall in 2020.

What the Residents of Trinidad Experienced

Public Safety Power Shutoffs in Trinidad

- Wed., Oct.8 at 1:00 am to Thurs., Oct.9 at 3:00 am: estimated at 26 hours
- Sat., Oct. 26 at 11:30 pm to Mon., Oct. 28 at 2:30 pm: estimated at 39 hours

Steps to Take Before An Outage

1. Create a safety plan
2. Prepare an emergency supply kit
3. Keep all mobile devices charged
4. Ensure your generator (if you have one) is ready to operate safely
5. Have flashlights, batteries, and battery-power or crank radio easily accessible
6. Keep cash and gas on hand

Your City Council's Goals for 2020

*Photos provided by
City Council members*



Mayor Steve Ladwig (pictured
with wife, Jen, and daughter, Zoë)

"For 2020, I am looking forward to working with the Tsurai Ancestral Society, the Trinidad Rancheria, and the Yurok Tribe on all aspects of sharing this community. I am also looking forward to developing new revenue sources, benefiting from City Manager Naffah's experience and expertise in economic development. Our financial security is very important and needs to reflect our values as a City. I also look forward to increased civic engagement. I believe there is a lot of talent and knowledge in our community and I feel we need to tap into it to solve the challenges we face. And finally, I look forward to living in this community and serving you as a member of the City Council."



Council member Jack West

"In my 8th year on the Council, I hope to see the City run smoothly with no unexpected outages, deadly storms or other types of disasters. Of the things we can control, there are a few projects that would be great to finish or nearly finish. We should have a water policy and an understanding of how much water we need for any type of issue in and around the City. I expect to see the Stormwater Project nearly completed this year, although it may be very intrusive this summer. I hope to see the STR Committee reformed and able to help the City improve the STR Ordinance for both the residents and tourists. We have worked for many years to return the 12.5 acres, which includes the traditional Tsurai Village Site and Cemetery to the family descendants. I would like to see progress toward completing this task."



Council member
Dave Grover

"I plan to promote public participation & Stakeholder involvement as it pertains to individual elements of the General Plan, more specifically — the Climate Action Plan for Trinidad (CAPT), which is currently in the initial phase of its development. I am also going to be reaching out to city officials, staff, and the Trails Committee to ensure our communications with specific residents, the Tsurai Ancestral Society, and the public at large (including tribal members) regarding city projects becomes more cohesive. I am hoping to tie my endeavors into Trinidad's General Plan whenever possible under the assumption that monitoring, review and update of Trinidad's perspective agenda as a whole will create an increased awareness between the business owners and residents of Trinidad, and those stationed in honored positions of local government and public service."



Council member
Dwight Miller

"After several years as a city councilor, several issues have come into focus: 1) Climate change affects the entire planet, and change starts with us. 2) Social issues such as homelessness or poor healthcare affect us, so we must coordinate better with other cities, the County, and the State. Many of our property crimes, and perceived need for more sheriff protection, are related to the bigger issue of homelessness and poor social and mental health services. Thus, with these issues in mind, I would like the City to achieve the following in 2020: 1) Specific plans for the City to help residents with the next power outage: better backup power at City facilities, including battery backup for our new rooftop solar on City Hall; specific accommodations for residents who have electricity-dependent medical equipment, including roll-out cots and other sleep-over facilities; etc. 2) Improved communication with residents, such as this newsletter and a blog capability on our web page, to ensure we are responsive to residents. 3) Re-visit our community-wide Goals Setting, last done in Spring 2015, to set new priorities for action."

*Council member Tom Davies
declined to comment.*

Get to Know Us!



Pictured left to right: Back row - Kyle Shipman, John Roberts, Tom Marquette, Bryan Buckman; Front row - Rebecca Price-Hall, Gabriel Adams, Ryan De Smet, Dick Kieselhorst, Eli Naffah, Angela Zetter

Where You Can Find City Staff

463 Trinity Street

Eli Naffah - City Manager
Rebecca Price-Hall - Grant Administrator

Town Hall - 409 Trinity Street

Gabriel Adams - City Clerk
Angela Zetter - Administrative Assistant
John Roberts - Building Inspector

You'll often see the Public Works staff around town, but they also are frequently working at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

Bryan Buckman - Public Works Director
Ryan De Smet - Water Treatment Operator/Public Works
Kyle Shipman - Public Works

Fire Hall - 409 Trinity Street

Tom Marquette - Fire Chief
Dick Kieselhorst - Assistant Fire Chief

Farewell!

Deputy Luke Mathieson with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office has been with the City of Trinidad for three years, starting in 2017 and ending in January 2020. Deputy Mathieson has been a friendly face in Trinidad, and has done an excellent job of keeping the City of Trinidad safe. The City thanks you for your service. You will be greatly missed!

City of Trinidad's Building Inspector John Roberts has been with the City for 10 years. John has inspected a vast array of projects, which shines light on the expertise he has gained throughout his career. Along with his vast amount of knowledge, his love for Ford Mustangs is no secret, as you could often catch him driving his' to and from inspections! John will be deeply missed by City of Trinidad. Thank you for service John!

Help Wanted Volunteer Fire Department



Photo - Angela Zetter

The City of Trinidad's Volunteer Fire Department is looking for qualified individuals to become Volunteer Firepersons. Applications are available in City Hall. Please contact the City Clerk at 707.677.0223 with any additional questions.

If you would like to stay informed on upcoming City business, please email cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov to be added to the City's newsletter email subscriber list. If you would like to see the City adopt a two-way email list, we would like your feedback. Please email us and indicate the following:

- ☐ Please send me email announcements from the city (BCC in mailings).
- ☐ I would like to be more active as an email contributor (it is OK if others see my email on a CC list)
- ☐ _____ (please tell us how you wish to communicate)